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Leave CIA Alone!

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy is whistling in the wind with his request for an investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency. The Minnesota Democrat is so determined that he recently declared unless the Senate Foreign Relations Committee undertook such a study on its own, he would seek a showdown vote in the committee on a formal resolution proposing such a probe. The senator is sponsoring a resolution proposing "a full and complete inquiry" by the committee with respect to the effects of the CIA operations "on the foreign policy of the United States."

McCarthy, moreover, added that to give the Senate a choice, a subsequent resolution will follow calling for an inquiry by a blue-ribbon committee comprised of senators from Foreign Relations and other standing committees.

The Minnesota lawmaker's thinking relative to the Central Intelligence Agency indeed is difficult to comprehend. What a boon to the Communist enemy to have CIA probed by legislators!

Admittedly, CIA has made glaring, and at times, embarrassing mistakes. Notwithstanding its conspicuous errors, the agency has functioned commendably and efficiently—rendering indispensable service in the interest of national security.

Critics are quick to point out the ill-fated U2 overflight of Gary Powers and the alleged bumbling in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion as costly CIA mistakes. The same critics forget too quickly the agency's many successes in gathering significant information concerning the strategy of this republic's sworn adversaries.

Leave CIA out of congressional probing! It seems highly inadvisable to add Adm. William Raborn's ultra-secret agency to the long list of pending congressional investigations. The security of the United States must not be subject to uncalled-for inquiry.